

INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

Most nations with waste management programs currently either reprocess spent fuel or store it at reactor sites. Future plans for permanent disposal differ among nations; however, many nations and international agencies have expressed a consensus that disposal in geologic repositories is the long-term solution.

Plans for Geological Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and/or High-Level Radioactive Waste		
Country	Waste Form to be Accepted by Repository	Possible Repository Host Rock
Argentina	HLW glass	Crystalline
Belgium	Spent fuel or HLW glass	Boom Clay
Canada	Spent fuel	Crystalline
Finland	Spent fuel	Crystalline
France	HLW glass	Clay or granite
Germany (FRG)	Spent fuel or HLW glass	Salt
India	HLW glass	Granite, basalt, or amphibolite
Italy	HLW glass	Clay or salt
Japan	HLW glass	Tuff, crystalline, or sedimentary rock
Netherlands	Spent fuel and HLW glass	Salt or clay
Spain	Spent fuel	Crystalline, salt, or clay
Sweden	Spent fuel	Crystalline
Switzerland	HLW glass	Crystalline, or sedimentary rock
United Kingdom	HLW glass	TBD
United States	Spent fuel and HLW glass	Tuff*
HLW = High-Level Wastes		TBD = To be determined

Source: Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, 1994.

*The United States is currently the only country involved in the process of site characterization. Various waste forms and host types are being evaluated.